# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2009
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001
SEPARATE CELL TO BOOST EXPORT
RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate cell to boost the India`s export to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which said cell likely to be set up; and

(d) the extent to which the India`s export is likely to increase to these neighbouring countries?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ( SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) :India plays an active role in the joint effort of the neighbouring countries in the South Asia region, namely, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for promotion of intra-regional export and import through removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, in a phased manner, with the intention of establishing a Free Trade Area in the South Asia region (SAFTA) within a time-frame mutually agreed upon by the participating nations who have organised themselves into an association commonly known as South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Government of India is taking special measures to promote exports from North-Eastern Region especially for boosting trade with countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. These measures include setting up of an Export Development Fund and development of infrastructure for trade under Prime Minister`s initiative for North-East.

These measures are likely to give a significant boost to increased economic inter-action among the South Asian nations and Indian export to the neighbouring countries.